

Building Blocks

Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital

December 2011



Safety Baby Showers Help Our Patients

To help families of patients in the Center for Neonatal Transitional Care (CNTC) make their homes safer and healthier, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital has inaugurated the Safety Baby Shower. This event is held every month and draws 20 or more families.



A dad visits one of the featured "discovery stations" at the Safety Baby Shower

Staff members share information on topics such as fire and burns, poison in the home, and children's car safety seats. While enjoying refreshments, parents have a chance to mingle and exchange information with each other. And, parents receive a gift packet that contains safety products such as cabinet locks, water thermometers, and plug covers, as well as brochures about what to do in emergency situations.

Melissa Stokes Beasley, the Community Advocacy and Injury Prevention program coordinator, reaches out not only to MWPH parents at the Safety Baby Showers, but also to members of the larger community at neighborhood gatherings, large festivals, and meetings of the City and County fire, health and police departments, where she distributes information and products to as many as 6,000 people a year.

At these different gatherings Melissa shares all kinds of tips – for shopping for and cooking healthy meals, "green" house cleaning, keeping the home safe, and what to do in an emergency – to help Baltimore area families improve their lives. She is particularly dedicated to helping low-income and underserved residents of the area, who need the most help in keeping their families safe and healthy.

Down the Stretch We Come!

On October 20th, the hospital held its public announcement of *Building the Future for Every Child*, the capital campaign for the Center for Neonatal Transitional Care (CNTC). The theme of this event was "Down the Stretch We Come" to publicize that MWPH has just \$1,000,000 left to raise in this \$9.2 million campaign. A feature of the kick-off was the appearance of retired race horse and champion Mojave Moon, who appeared courtesy of Billy Boniface, famed Maryland Horse breeder, of Bonita Farms in Harford County.



Owner, Bill Boniface with Mojave Moon

The first block of renovated patient rooms in the CNTC will be open for occupancy this month. The Family Resource Center will also be open, providing internet access and reading materials, as will the Parent Lounge, three sleeping rooms for families, two lactation rooms, and the Staff Lounge. The entire renovation/expansion project will be completed in mid-2013.

If you would like to know more about CNTC and the capital campaign or make a contribution, please contact Brigid Kernan, Director of Development, at 410-578-5315.

[Donate now! >](#)

Slim Man is Back

You would not normally say that smooth jazz goes with pediatric health care; that is, until you have met jazz crooner Slim Man.

The popular Baltimore area artist is a former volunteer in the Center for Neonatal Transitional care and continues to stay connected to our kids. He was back again this year on November 8th, at La Scala Restaurant in Little Italy, for a concert to benefit Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital. Admission to the concert was a toy or other gift for one of our patients.



From left: Sheldon Stein, Helena Gallagher, Lindie McDonough, Slim Man, and Diane Hawes

Thanks, Slim!

Spirit & Halloween Parade Cheers Our Kids

Once again this year, Spirit Halloween Stores hosted its annual Halloween party and parade for our kids.

"We've been doing this every year since 2006, and we just love every minute of it," said Tim Viechec, Director of Operations for the stores in Maryland.

The Spirit Halloween Stores provided piles of colorful costumes to lift the spirits of our patients, who then went trick-or-treating throughout the hospital to visit with the staff.

[Learn more about Child Life at MWPH >](#)



Child Life staff with tiny patients from our CNTC Unit

Visit our Wish List to see what we're asking for the holidays!



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Building Blocks is a publication for Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital donors and board members to inform them about hospital activities.

Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital: Advancing the care of children.

A jointly owned corporate affiliate of the University of Maryland Medical System & The Johns Hopkins Health System
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